

Note

A new combination in *Prostanthera* Labill. (Lamiaceae)

In 1904, F.M. Bailey named *Hemigenia clotteniana*, based on a specimen from "Herberton" (Bailey 1904). He gave a detailed description of the plant, including the following "leaves opposite, simple, or on the branchlets often in threes, 6 to 9 lines [12–18 mm] long, scarcely exceeding 2 lines [4 mm] in width" and later "calyx 2-lipped, lips entire; upper one deep purple, about 4 lines [8 mm] long". An examination of the type showed that it possesses 4 perfect stamens, each with 2 anther cells.

In the following year (Bailey 1905), he described *Prostanthera atrovioleacea*, again from "Herberton". His description included the following "leaves opposite, not exceeding 1 inch [25 mm] long and 2 lines [4 mm] broad" and later "calyx silky-hairy, the upper lip 5 lines [10 mm] long, ... deep-violet outside".

Bailey did not compare *P. atrovioleacea* with *H. clotteniana*, saying merely that "the nearest ally of this plant [*P. atrovioleacea*] appears to be *P. lithospermoides*".

Between the years 1905 and 1999, only one collection of either 'species' was added to the Queensland Herbarium. That specimen, collected by Michael Lockyer in 1974, was identified as *Prostanthera atrovioleacea*.

In April 1999, K.R. McDonald sent to BRI two labiaceous specimens, collected from the rocky hills west of Ravenshoe. The process of identifying these specimens led to a closer examination of *Hemigenia clotteniana* and *Prostanthera atrovioleacea*, and it was soon realised that the two are synonymous. There is some variation in the stamens; some flowers have two perfect stamens while others have four. This may have prompted Bailey to place his two collections into different genera.

The correct genus is undoubtedly *Prostanthera*, because the stamens always have two perfect cells, and the calyx is 2-lobed. Hence, a new combination is necessary, as follows:

***Prostanthera clotteniana* (F.M. Bailey)
A.R.Bean comb. nov.**

Hemigenia clotteniana F.M. Bailey,
Queensl. Agric. J. 15: 493 (1904). **Type:**
Herberton, undated, *J. Stirling* (holo:
BRI).

Prostanthera atrovioleacea F.M. Bailey,
Queensl. Agric. J. 16: 190 (1905). **Type:**
Herberton, undated, *R.C. Ringrose* (holo:
BRI), **syn. nov.**

Illustration: F.M. Bailey, Comprehensive Cat.
of Qld Pl. p. 393 (1913).

Additional specimens examined: Queensland. NORTH
KENNEDY DISTRICT: W of Ravenshoe, Dec 1974, *Lockyer*
s.n. (BRI); TR245 W of Ravenshoe, Apr 1999,
McDonald 22, 32 (BRI); TR 245 near Ravenshoe,
May 1999, *Thompson & McDonald* (BRI).

Conservation status: *H. clotteniana* was listed as presumed extinct (X) on the schedules of the Queensland Conservation Act, while *P. atrovioleacea* was listed as rare (R). A re-assessment of the conservation status of *Prostanthera clotteniana* is now obviously necessary. It is known only from a few rocky hilltops in State Forest near Ravenshoe. Three stands are known with 1, 7 and 1 individuals in each (K. McDonald pers. comm.). Applying the criteria of the IUCN (Anon. 1994), a category of 'critically endangered' is proposed (Criterion D).

Acknowledgements

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References

- ANONYMOUS (1994). *IUCN Red List Categories*. International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources: Switzerland.
- BAILEY, F.M. (1904). Contributions to the Flora of Queensland. *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 15: 491–5.
- BAILEY, F.M. (1905). Contributions to the Flora of Queensland. *Queensland Agricultural Journal* 16: 189–93.

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